HARRIS COMICS
VAMPIRELLA
DEATH VALLEY
1 OF 2
MONTHLY
24
CONWAY
LAU

VAMPIRELLA®
death valley
SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVIL
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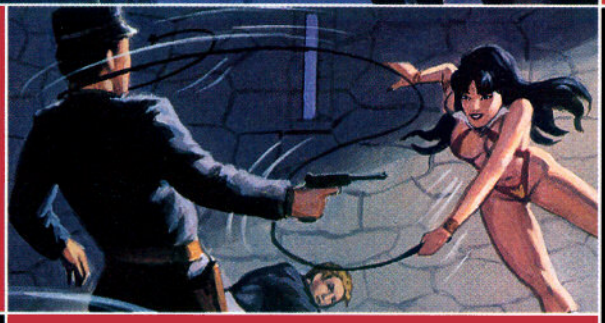
the story so far

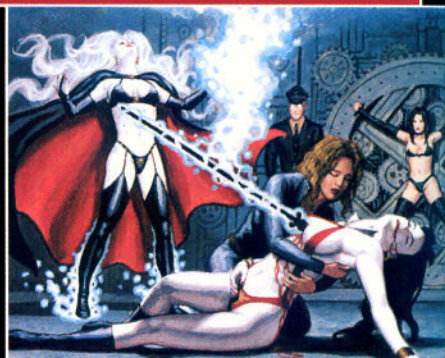
Evil is alive, and its name is Dr. Midwinter—a former Nazi who has just cut a deal with Death. According to the bargain, Midwinter will sacrifice the immortal soul of demi-goddess Pantha to the Reaper himself. In return, Death's avatar—the cold and ruthless Lady Death—will do Midwinter's bidding and destroy a massive number of human lives, no questions asked.

With Lady Death at his service, Midwinter is a mere hop, skip and jump away from annihilating a good portion of the human race, and ushering in a new era of fear and violence. But before any good meal comes an appetizer, and Midwinter's ready to dine. Because of a long-standing grudge, he's not about to waste this precious opportunity to make Pantha's sacrifice as gruesome as possible.



Enter Vampirella and her young sidekick, Dixie. Armed with guns, grenades, and the hardened resolve to see Midwinter's career of sadism come to an end, the two fight their way into his fortress and past the armed guards stationed at every entrance. But getting there's only half the fun: once inside, Vampi is shocked to find that what she thought was a simple grudge match is in fact a contest for the fate of all humanity!

In the catfight to end all catfights, Vampi is weakened by a sip of Lady Death's tainted blood, and dealt a mortal wound from the Spear of Destiny. No ordinary weapon, the Spear sparks a chain of events that opens the mysterious Nexus of All Things and casts Vampi's soul through it, and into oblivion! Now, with the future of the world at stake, Vampi's allies watch in horror as she departs the earthly realm.



LOS ANGELES, 1969:
NOW, AS WE ENTER A NEW AGE, MAGIC AND MYSTERY HOLD SWAY ONCE MORE!
Cowl Girl
DANCE
ONE-WAY
Black Cat
STARS
NUDE MAN
PALACE
PENDRAGON:
AND I --THE GREAT PENDRAGON-- BRING YOU THE WONDER AND THE HORROR OF THAT AGE!
THE SOUL OF A SEDUCTRESS TRAPPED BY AN ANCIENT CURSE--
--IN THE FORM OF A DEADLY VAMPIRE BAT!

I *ALONE* POSSESS THE POWER TO *FREE* HER!

TO UNLEASH A CREATURE OF *UNRIVALLED BEAUTY* AND *BLOODLUST!*

WHOSE KISS IS *ECSTASY* AND *DEATH!*

AND, WHO AMONG YOU WOULD *BRAVE* THAT?

TO *DIE* OF *UNENDURABLE PLEASURE!*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN-- BEHOLD THE *BEAUTY* AND *TERROR* THAT IS--

"--VAMPIRELLA!"

YEE-AAHHH!

ALL *RIGHT*, MAN!

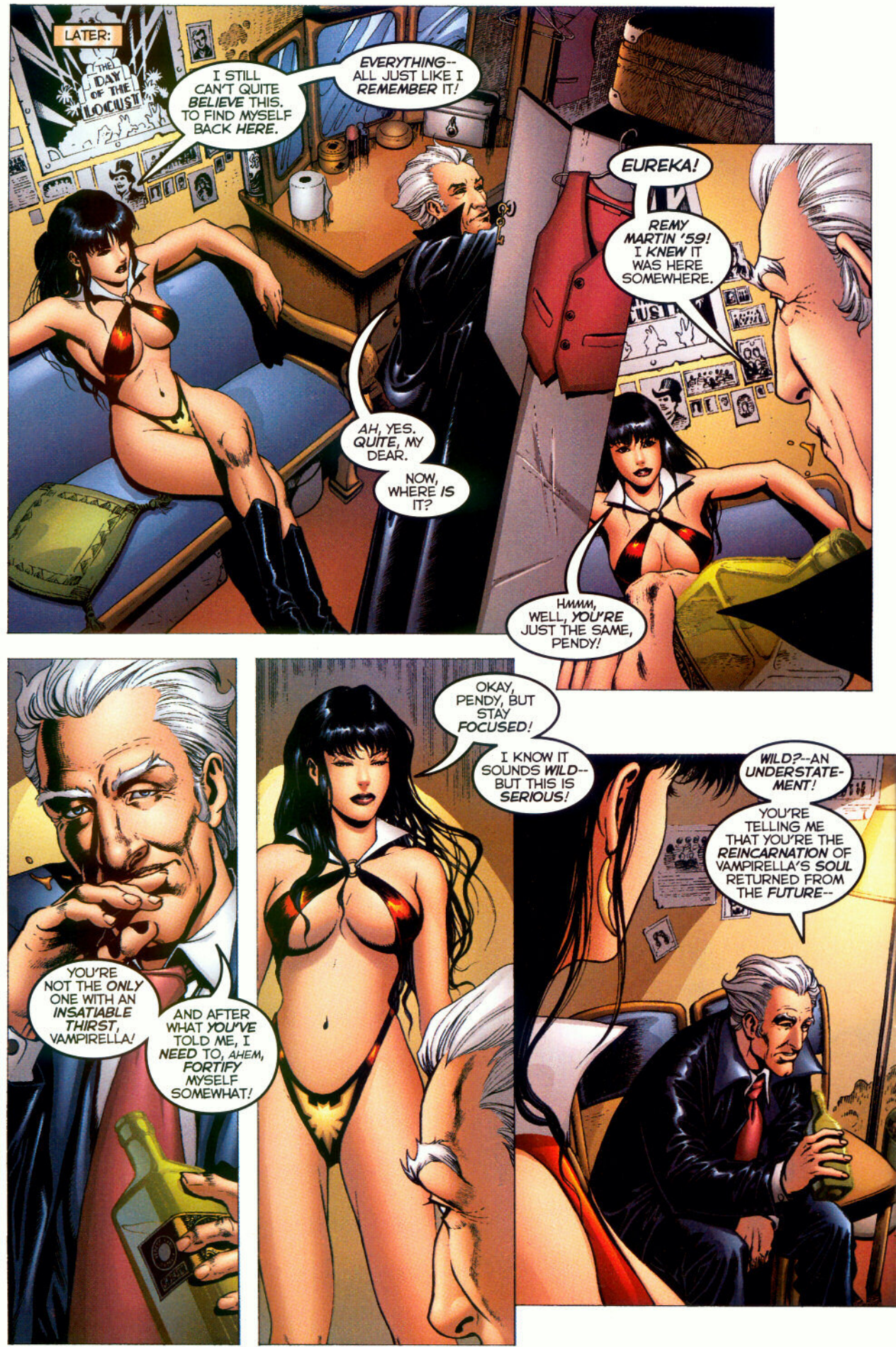
GROOVY, BABY!

UHHH, WHAT... WHERE?

ARE YOU *FEELING QUITE YOURSELF*, MY DEAR?

YOU'RE LOOKING A LITTLE *PEEKY.*

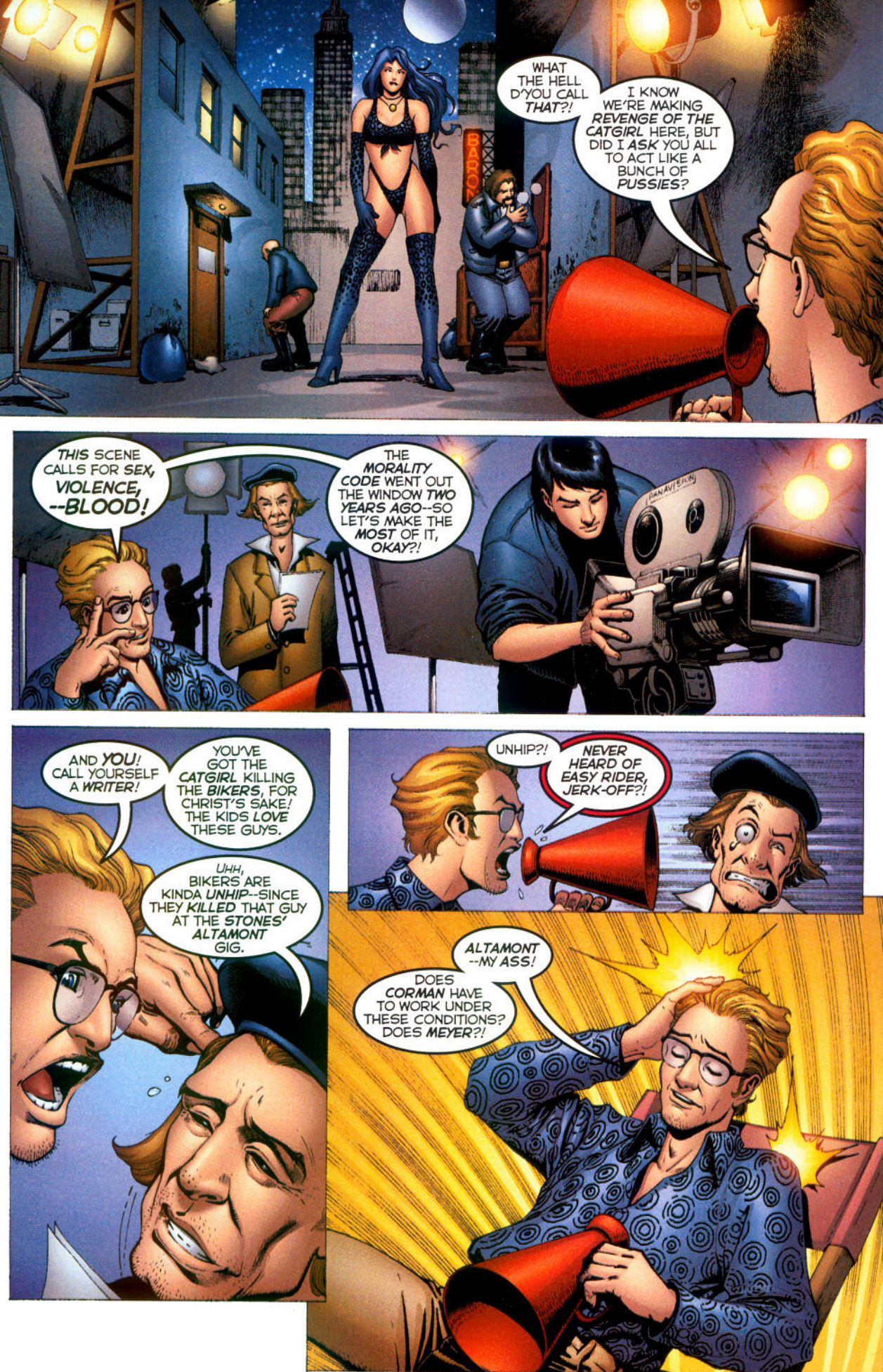
PEN-PENDRAGON?


LATER:
THE DAY OF THE LOCUST
I STILL CAN'T QUITE BELIEVE THIS. TO FIND MYSELF BACK HERE.
EVERYTHING-- ALL JUST LIKE I REMEMBER IT!
AH, YES. QUITE, MY DEAR.
NOW, WHERE IS IT?
EUREKA!
REMY MARTIN '59! I KNEW IT WAS HERE SOMEWHERE.
HMMM, WELL, YOU'RE JUST THE SAME, PENDY!
OKAY, PENDY, BUT STAY FOCUSED!
I KNOW IT SOUNDS WILD-- BUT THIS IS SERIOUS!
WILD?--AN UNDERSTATEMENT!
YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU'RE THE REINCARNATION OF VAMPIRELLA'S SOUL RETURNED FROM THE FUTURE--
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH AN INSATIABLE THIRST, VAMPIRELLA!
AND AFTER WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME, I NEED TO, AHEM, FORTIFY MYSELF SOMEWHAT!

"--AFTER YOU DIED-- WILL DIE! ...IN THE YEAR 2000!"
"--NOT JUST ME, PENDY--
"--BILLIONS WILL DIE UNLESS I CAN RETURN TO PREVENT IT.
"A NAZI MADMAN USED THE SCARAB OF ATUM-RA TO INVOKE LADY DEATH.
"AND PLEDGED PANTHA'S SOUL TO HER--IN RETURN FOR THE ULTIMATE HOLOCAUST.
"AFTER I DIED --WILL DIE-- MY SOUL WAS ABSORBED BY A RIFT IN SPACE AND TIME.
"I THINK YOU MUST HAVE OPENED THE PORTAL DURING OUR ACT.
"AND MY SOUL REINCARNATED IN MY OWN BODY..."
THE SCARAB HOLDS THE KEY TO EVERYTHING...
AND ONLY ONE PERSON REALLY UNDERSTANDS ITS POWERS...

--PANTHA!"
SO THIS IS THE "DAWNING OF THE AGE OF AQUARIUS?"
"I'M ALL FOR PERMISSIVENESS--"
"LOOKS LIKE PEACE AND LOVE ARE STILL IN SHORT SUPPLY!
"DON'T GET ME WRONG--
DO NOT ENTER

--BUT THIS TIME I'M DEFINITELY NOT ON THE SIDE OF THE ANGELS!
YOU GUYS FIGURE YOU WERE "BORN TO BE WILD", HUH?
TRUST ME--
DO NOT ENTER
--YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET!
CUT!
HUH--?


WHAT THE HELL D'YOU CALL THAT?!
I KNOW WE'RE MAKING REVENGE OF THE CATGIRL HERE, BUT DID I ASK YOU ALL TO ACT LIKE A BUNCH OF PUSSIES?
THIS SCENE CALLS FOR SEX, VIOLENCE, --BLOOD!
THE MORALITY CODE WENT OUT THE WINDOW TWO YEARS AGO--SO LET'S MAKE THE MOST OF IT, OKAY?!
PANAVISION
AND YOU! CALL YOURSELF A WRITER!
YOU'VE GOT THE CATGIRL KILLING THE BIKERS, FOR CHRIST'S SAKE! THE KIDS LOVE THESE GUYS.
UHH, BIKERS ARE KINDA UNHIP--SINCE THEY KILLED THAT GUY AT THE STONES' ALTAMONT GIG.
UNHIP?!
NEVER HEARD OF EASY RIDER, JERK-OFF?!
ALTAMONT --MY ASS!
DOES CORMAN HAVE TO WORK UNDER THESE CONDITIONS? DOES MEYER?!

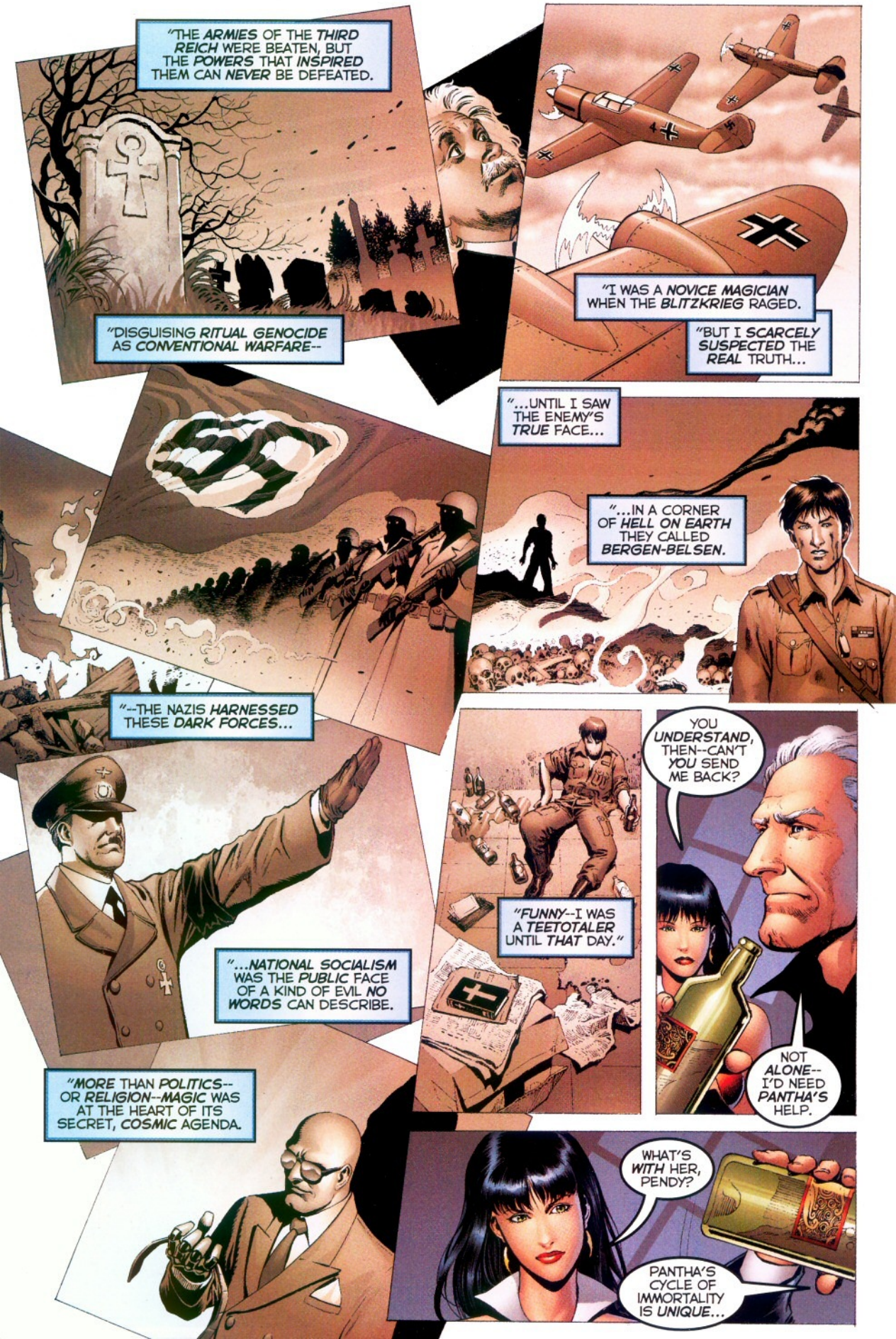
I THOUGHT I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE THE PRIMA DONNA HERE!
BUT THE REAL DRAMA QUEENS ARE BEHIND THE CAMERA THESE DAYS!
YEAH, I ALWAYS KNEW MOVIES WERE FOR FAGS! WHATEVER HAPPENED TO JOHN WAYNE ANYWAY?!
WHAT ARE YOU COMPLAINING FOR?
YOU GUYS ARE GETTING WELL PAID TO BRING A BIT OF REALISM TO THIS LITTLE EPIC!
IF IT'S REALISM YOU WANT, THERE'S A CHAPTER GATHERING AT THE DEATH VALLEY LODGE TONIGHT.
A HIP CHICK LIKE YOU HAS JUST GOTTA DIG IT!
HMMM, YEAH-- WHY NOT?!
BOY, I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN PANTHA'S FIFTEEN MINUTES AS A B-MOVIE STARLET!
YES, BUT THIS IS NOT THE PANTHA YOU KNOW IN YOUR OWN TIME, VAMPIRELLA.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, PENDY?
YOU CAN'T TELL HER THE TRUTH.
SHE'S NOT READY FOR IT YET!
DON'T WORRY, PENDY-- I'LL PLAY IT COOL.
I REMEMBER HOW TO HANDLE THE PARTY ANIMAL PANTHA USED TO BE!

WHAT'S UP, VAMP! YOU'VE ALWAYS SAID YOU WOULDN'T BE SEEN DEAD ON A MOVIE SET!
SO, THE HOLLYWOOD BUG FINALLY BIT YOU, HUH?
NOTHING LIKE THAT!
WE NEED A FAVOR--SOMETHING YOU'VE GOT!
THIS--THE SCARAB OF ATUM-RA.
WHAT? THIS OLD THING?
PENDY WANTS TO TRY SOMETHING NEW FOR THE ACT--
--HE THINKS THE SCARAB WILL HELP.
HE'S GOT YOU BELIEVING ALL THAT HOODOO VOODOO STUFF NOW?
IT'S ONLY A LUCKY CHARM, Y'KNOW.
JUST GET IT BACK BY MORNING--OR CONTINUITY'LL HAVE MY ASS!
YOU WERE RIGHT, PENDY! SHE'S NOTHING LIKE THE PANTHA I KNOW.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER?
IT'S COMPLICATED, VAMPIRELLA.
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING LATER.
SO YOU GUYS WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT A PARTY?

"IF THERE'S ONE THING I LOVE...
"--IT'S A REALLY WILD PARTY!"
BEVERLY HILLS--JESUS! DON'T YOU JUST LOVE IT, JACK!
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE SHOVED THESE POOR BASTARDS THROUGH A MEAT GRINDER!
"MEAT GRINDER", MY ASS, MIKE!
THOSE ARE TEETH MARKS--MAYBE WE SHOULD BE THINKING "SOMETHING" INSTEAD OF "SOMEONE"!
CHECK THIS! PCP--ANGEL DUST! THIS STUFF CAN TURN A PEACENIK PUSSY INTO A STONE--COLD PSYCHOKILLER!
OKAY, SO WHAT'S YOUR TAKE ON ALL THIS?
SEE THIS GUY--ROMAN CASTAVET, THE BIG SHOT MOVIE DIRECTOR.
TONIGHT'S HOST--A REAL SWINGER. DRUGS, SEX ORGIES, BLACK MAGIC AND STUFF!
FIGURE HE BIT OFF MORE THAN HE COULD CHEW, HUH?
I'M GONNA NEED TO SEE A GUEST LIST FOR TONIGHT'S SLEEP-OVER.
ANYTHING ELSE, JACK?
YEAH. HUMOR ME, MIKE. CHECK OUT THE ZOO.

"I'VE GOT A SPOOKY FEELING ABOUT THIS ONE.
"WE'VE GOT ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH THE LOCAL WILDLIFE...
"LAST THING WE NEED IS A NEW ANIMAL ON THE LOOSE!"
I DON'T KNOW, PANTHA!
HANGING OUT WITH THESE GUYS IN TOWN IS ONE THING. BUT HERE IN DEATH VALLEY-- MAYBE IT'S NOT SO SMART.
OH, RELAX, KID. THESE GUYS ARE JUST BIG PUSSYCATS!
AND I'VE HAD A WEAKNESS FOR BIKERS SINCE I SAW BRANDO IN "THE WILD ONE!"
BESIDES, WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN?
WHITE SKULL

YES, MY DEAR--IT SEEMS YOU WERE *RIGHT*.
WHAT *IS* IT, PENDY--WHAT HAVE YOU *FOUND?!*
THE ANSWER TO *WHAT* BROUGHT YOU HERE--AND HOW TO *RETURN* YOU TO *YOUR OWN TIME*.
THE *SCARAB OF ATUM-RA*, THE SYMBOL OF THE *SUPREME SUN GOD* OF ANCIENT EGYPT.
SOME REGARD IT AS THE *ORIGINAL SOURCE* OF THE *GRAIL MYTH*--THE *KEY* TO *ALL* THE POWERS OF *CREATION*.
MY *GOD*, VAMPIRELLA!
IF *NAZIS* CONTROL IT, YOU'VE NO IDEA WHAT IT COULD *MEAN!*
YOU NEVER *SAW* WHAT THEY *DID*--THE *GAS CHAMBERS*, THE *OVENS*--CRIMES BEYOND *BELIEF* ONLY A *QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO*.
BUT THAT'S *ALL* IN THE *PAST* NOW.
THEY WERE *BEATEN*, RIGHT?

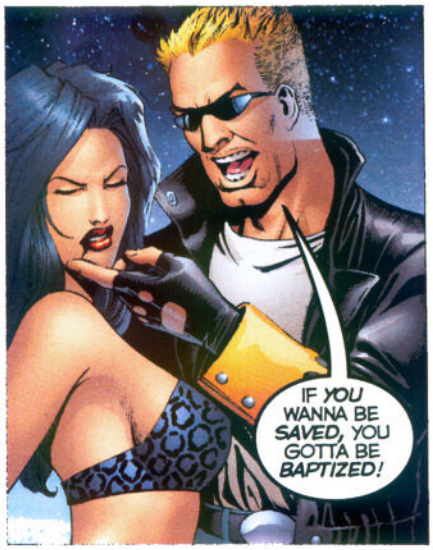

"THE ARMIES OF THE THIRD REICH WERE BEATEN, BUT THE POWERS THAT INSPIRED THEM CAN NEVER BE DEFEATED.
"DISGUISING RITUAL GENOCIDE AS CONVENTIONAL WARFARE--
"I WAS A NOVICE MAGICIAN WHEN THE BLITZKRIEG RAGED.
"BUT I SCARCELY SUSPECTED THE REAL TRUTH...
"...UNTIL I SAW THE ENEMY'S TRUE FACE...
"...IN A CORNER OF HELL ON EARTH THEY CALLED BERGEN-BELSEN.
"--THE NAZIS HARNESSED THESE DARK FORCES...
"...NATIONAL SOCIALISM WAS THE PUBLIC FACE OF A KIND OF EVIL NO WORDS CAN DESCRIBE.
"FUNNY--I WAS A TEETOTALER UNTIL THAT DAY."
YOU UNDERSTAND, THEN--CAN'T YOU SEND ME BACK?
NOT ALONE--I'D NEED PANTHA'S HELP.
"MORE THAN POLITICS--OR RELIGION--MAGIC WAS AT THE HEART OF ITS SECRET, COSMIC AGENDA.
WHAT'S WITH HER, PENDY?
PANTHA'S CYCLE OF IMMORTALITY IS UNIQUE...

"...A PROCESS OF REBIRTH LINKED TO THE RISE OF EACH NEW AGE...
"BUT UNTIL IT IS COMPLETED, SHE HAS NO IDEA OF WHO--OR WHAT--SHE REALLY IS!"
OKAY, YOU GUYS, I'M WARNING YOU!
A JOKE'S A JOKE--BUT YOU'RE GOING TOO FAR!
"IT'S LIKE A FORM OF KARMIC AMNESIA."
YOU'RE WARNING US?! THAT'S THE F@#*ING JOKE, MAN!
"SHE CAN'T EVEN CONSCIOUSLY CONTROL HER TRANSFORMATIONS!"
AND THIS IS THE PUNCHLINE!
LET ME GO, YOU CREEPS!
I DON'T THINK SO, KITTEN!
THE WHITE SKULLS IS AN ELITE GROUP --YOU WANNA HANG WITH US...
...YOU GOTTA BE INITIATED!

YOU'VE GOTTA BE BLOODED!
BLOOD, MAN! BLOOD!
THE MAGICKAL ELEMENT OF MANIFESTATION.
JANE! NO!
THE SHAMANS SAY THIS S#@% PUTS 'EM IN TOUCH WITH THEIR ANIMAL SIDE!
SURE BRINGS OUT THE BEAST IN ME, SWEETCHEEKS!
LET'S SEE WHAT IT DOES FOR YOU!

AHHHHHH!
IT'S PANTHA! SHE'S IN TROUBLE.
SOMEHOW, THE SCARAB... SHOWED ME!
OF COURSE, SHE AND IT ARE LINKED.
I KNOW WHERE SHE IS, PENDY. I'VE GOT TO HELP HER!
YOU LOOK AFTER THE SCARAB WHILE I'M GONE.
PANTHA IS THE KEY TO ALL THIS.
WITHOUT HER HELP, WE'RE FINISHED!
YES, BUT BE CAREFUL, MY DEAR...
...ULTIMATE EVIL TAKES INFINITE FORMS!
DON'T FRET, PENDY...

"...THIS IS THE KIND OF TROUBLE I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE!"
IT'S JUST LIKE THE SONG SAYS, BABY--"1969 OK--WAR ACROSS THE USA!"
THE HELTER SKELTER'S COMING AND THE PUREBLOODS ARE GONNA PURGE AMERICA!


IF YOU WANNA BE SAVED, YOU GOTTA BE BAPTIZED!

OR ELSE YOU'LL BURN WITH THE PIGS--
WHEN WE SEND THEM ALL TO HELL!

GASOLINE
IF IT'S HELL YOU WANT, GREASEBALL...
...IT WILL BE A PLEASURE TO OBLIGE!

LET'S SEE HOW YOU GUYS HANDLE ONE OF HELL'S REAL ANGELS!
TOUGH BITCH!
COOL!
BUT NO CHICK CAN RESIST MR. MAGNUM HERE--
--OR HIS .44 CALIBER BALLISTIC KISSES!
AAAHHHHH
IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY-- HAPPINESS IS A WARM GUN!
TONIGHT'S TURNING OUT TO BE MORE FUN THAN I EXPECTED!

LATER
C'MON, MAN, HURRY!
SHE'S STARTING TO WAKE UP!
DON'T SWEAT IT, MAN--IT'S COOL!
OH S#*@!
THIS BITCH IS GONNA BE SORRY SHE CROSSED THE SKULLS!
NEXT--
HELTAR SKELTAR

BLOOD TYPE

IN THE LAST BLOOD TYPE, we suggested the start of a new fan club—this one in honor of Nicole, Editorial Assistant and all-around glamourpuss. Well, we received more responses than you can shake a Spear of Destiny at, some of them unsuitable for print! Nicole thanks everyone for their kind support—but hold the phone, there, fellas! Before you hop the next train to NYC bearing champagne and offers of matrimony, be warned—as the Joker once told Batman, it seems there's another rooster in the henhouse.

Remember Bruce, the 17-year-old fan who invited Nicole to his homecoming dance after seeing her picture in Blood Type? Well, looks like the preparations are well under way...

...BECAUSE ONCE IS NEVER ENOUGH!!!

Dear Nicole:

You say you will attend the dance with me—R U serious? (ha ha.) Is this a trick? And, if not, what color will your dress be? I want to pick out a corsage that will match it. I will be wearing a gray suit. The pants are somewhat short, so I will be sure to wear socks that are fashionable and clean. My tie will be peach colored. I can't wait!

Cheers,
Bruce (You may call me B.)

Dear B.

Yes, I M serious (LOL). And, oh, was I tickled to hear about the attire you are planning for the dance! I considered wearing a light-blue gingham dress, but my best friend suggested something a little more formal. She feels that this is a special occasion, and pointed out that I spilled some Tang on that dress whilst dancing in front of the mirror. (I thought the Tang might be concealed with the help of some clever accessorizing, but she disagreed. Because of her superior social acumen, I took her word for it.)

So I came up with an alternative: a pleated frock of PEACH, the same color as your tie!!! I suspect that with our talent for color co-ordination, we are not only destined to work well together as a team, but also to put to shame any couple at the dance that might dare compete with our shared and finely-honed sense of fashion!!!

Can't wait—C U (heh heh) there!!!
Your friend,
Nicole

Dear Blood Type:

How did Pantha and Vampirella meet? Will Pantha become entwined with the plot of the Vampirella series? With Mamba decapitated, will Pantha team up with Vampirella and Dixie? Or is Pantha still in her own battle? How tall is Pantha? I'd guess six feet.

From a member of the Scarlet Legion,
James Comeau

If you've read the issue that now lies in your hands, you already know that Vampi and Pantha have begun to embark on an adventure that brings both of their story arcs together. But if you want to know how the two lovely ladies met, check out Vampirella vs. Pantha, available for sale on www.vampirella.com. As for Pantha's height, it depends on what form she takes. Human, she's tall enough to stomp fanboys into a pulp. And in her cat form, well, nobody's ever lived long enough to measure!

Hello again & Happy New Century,

I couldn't fight the urge to write to you—your crew is so good producing such a great book that I had to pat you all on the back once more!!!

Your book is the best around because no matter who writes it, draws it, colors, letters, inks it, or whatever, Vampi and Pantha and the rest always look consistent, which is amazing—not to mention their great ongoing story-lines! The other so-called "major comics" simply cannot do what your entire staff can do and that's make the characters look like themselves in each and every issue. And Pantha's change from panther to human was, by the way, astounding!

And they don't have such great-looking gals like Amanda, Nicole, Julie or the Pantha model, either.

I'm anxiously awaiting the conclusion of the Vampi/Lady Death rematch and future issues of Vampi/Pantha! Keep up the SUPER work.

Gratefully yours,
Steve LoPorto
Quincy, MA

P.S. I'm not kissing up to ya, really, but credit is due, and I'm impressed.

What can we say? We rock.

"Oh, I thought this was Vampire Fashion 101."

Dear Blood Type,

After spending a few months discovering Vampirella and her numerous fan sites via the Net, and without having read a comic before in my life (unless you count ThunderCats ten years ago), I was overjoyed (yay!) to find that hidden around the corner from my home is my very own Vampirella-stocking local comic shop. My first issue was Hell On Earth #3, so I'm hardly in a position to give a professional opinion or anything, but damn, you guys are good! Vampirella vs. Lady Death was excellent—enough to make a Pantha purr!

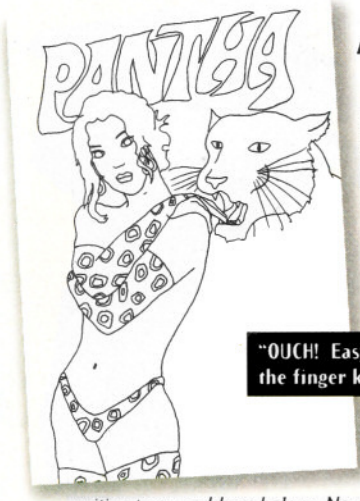
Here are a couple of (pretty rough) sketches. Well, it was a more constructive way to spend university lecture than actually listening to whatever it was they were talking about.

I love seeing Pantha in her own mini-series! I fear I'm developing an obsession (damn, I only just got over the Star Wars one), the latest clue being my almost (but not quite) excessive joy at the

discovery that Pantha has been around before—apparently there was a mysterious issue called Pantha vs. Vampirella. Look out, London... I'm on the hunt! What other issues have Pantha turned up in that I can search out?

Anyway, Vampi has to be one of the best comics I've seen... not that that means much considering how few that is, but I have no doubt she's far better than all the ones I haven't. Or something. What the hell: you guys rock!

Love,
A mad Brit,
AKA Eleanor Orebi-Gann
London, England



"OUCH! Easy on the finger kitty!"

See, we told you we rock. Now that we've ruined Eleanor for all other comic books, we want to point out to her and all other Pantha fans that your favorite feline is easy to find in monthly issues #13-17, the current #23, the upcoming #24, and the aforementioned Vampi vs. Pantha special. All can be ordered from vampirella.com, or by writing to our address below. Now start paying attention in class, you naughty girl!

What... an... impressive... guy. And huge! Vampi must have had a very good time the day this man was drawing her curves.

Forever Bloodlusting,
Richard Boom
Roermond, The Netherlands

Amanda is back in the saddle!

Hey, good news for all you Amanda Connor fans: the Queen Bee of comics is back, and she's done a special alternate cover for this very issue and its follow-up. Go get it while the getting's good!

Since Richard is headed for a record number of letters printed in Blood Type, we've decided to honor him with his own section. And to exalt Richard's native language, we hereby present ...

RICHARD'S DUTCH LESSONS

Hoe gaat het met jou? = How are you?
Jij bent lief = You are sweet.
Veel plezier met Kerstmis en een gelukkig millennium = Much fun with Christmas and a Happy millennium.
Eikul (pronounced "aicull") = Um, we can't tell you what this means.
DISCLAIMER: ANY MISTAKES ARE ALL RICHARD'S FAULT.

Hello bloodsuckers,

I just felt compelled to write you guys.

First off, let me just say you have the best product by far. And you have such a good nose for talent. For instance, that Zircher guy makes me drool. But don't get me wrong, I still miss Amanda.

Second, thanks sooo much for your gift! *[editors' note: Richard received a free bit of Vampilicious merchandise for his contribution to Blood Type #14].* I was walking in clouds for days and still do whenever I look into it again... marvelous! Thanks for thinking about me. You really know how to treat your fans right.

And now for the real reason I'm writing you: This Saturday I attended out yearly Comic Con and:

–I met Joe Jusko
–He signed my Blood Lust #1
–I got his picture
–I shook his hand
–I framed the comic and picture

Dear Harris Comics,

DOES VAMPIRELLA EVER GET NUDE OR GET IT ON IN THE ISSUES?

Anonymous
Via e-mail

Okay, first—stop that shouting.
Second—What kind of perverts do you think we are?

Of course, next month will feature an all-new Blood Type with a bevy of exciting letters from all of you. But you have to write 'em first! Send your thoughts to Blood Type, Harris Comics, 1115 Broadway, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10010. Or, if you just can't hold it in that long, go to www.vampirella.com, and enjoy instant gratification by sharing with your fellow fans.

coming next month:

ARE YOU INSANE???

Only the seriously disturbed would miss out on next month's conclusion to the riveting Vampi/Pantha story that began in this issue. Again featuring the wonderful words of David Conway and the titillating talents of Kevin Lau, next month's Vampirella will have Vampi taking on the White Skulls while seeking a way to return to the present in time for the following issue:

Vampirella/Lady Death: The Revenge, Part 2!!!
You know you want it!!!

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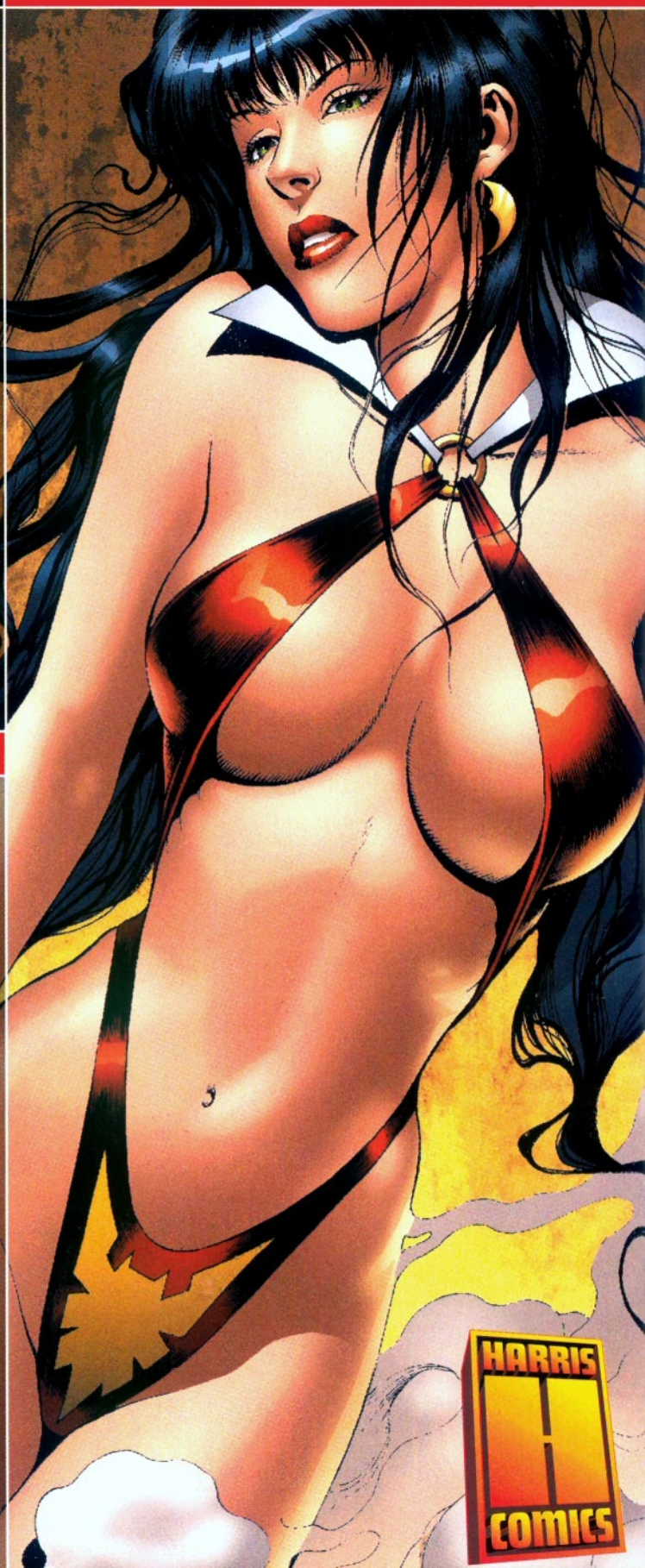

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